Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06627599

DOC/SEC

~~Secret~~

BRIEF

#120 75

3.5(c)

~~Secret~~

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06627599

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06627599

~~SECRET~~ [redacted] 3.5(c)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 120-75.Y

1. ARGENTINA: AS ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON BEGINS HER ONE-WEEK VACATION ON AUGUST 4, KEY EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS ARE IN THE HANDS OF A 'MINI-CABINET' LED BY INTERIOR MINISTER BENITEZ.Y

THIS GROUP HAS GAINED AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE AS THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY HAS ALL BUT DISAPPEARED. SEVERAL OTHER CABINET MINISTERS--NOTABLY FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES AND LABOR MINISTER CONDITTI--CONTINUE TO BE CRITICIZED FOR THEIR LINKS TO THE OUSTED LOPEZ REGA.Y

BENITEZ, WHO IS WIDELY RESPECTED IN ARGENTINA, MAY SOON JOIN THE RANKS OF THOSE BEING MENTIONED AS CANDIDATES TO COMPLETE PERON'S TERM, IF SHE LEAVES OFFICE. OTHERS MENTIONED FOR THIS ROLE ARE SENATE PRESIDENT LUBER, WHO WOULD BECOME INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE UNTIL CONGRESS CHOOSES A SUCCESSOR TO COMPLETE THE TERM, AND BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR CALABRO, WHO HAS TIES TO LABOR AND THE MILITARY.Y

OVER THE WEEKEND, THE OUTLAWED LEFTIST PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT BY PUBLICLY

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06627599

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06627599

~~SECRET~~

OFFERING TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS IN RETURN FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, AN END TO THE STATE OF SIEGE, AND THE REVOCATION OF "REPRESSIVE LAWS," INCLUDING THE BAN ON THE GROUP. THE GROUP REALIZES THERE IS ALMOST NO CHANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL MEET ITS DEMANDS, BUT HOPES TO ENHANCE ITS IMAGE BY DISPLAYING A WILLINGNESS TO BE CONCILIATIRY. 3.5(c) NR

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06627599